

***Aethes beatricella* Wals. (Lep.: Tortricidae) new to North Hampshire**

John Langmaid has kindly identified a tortrix which flew to mv light here on 12 July 1996, along with 86 other species, as *Aethes beatricella*. The food plant, *Conium maculatum*, is known to be abundant in several of the village gardens. I am grateful to Barry Goater for confirming this as the first record for VC12.—ALASDAIR ASTON, Wake's Cottage, 1 The Street, Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH.

A very Early Grey

On 11 January 1998 I noted a fresh specimen of the Early Grey Moth *Xylocampa areola* Esp. resting on the frame of my back door in Mitcham. This seems to be an exceptionally early date compared with those which I have for my moth trap run between 1981 and 1985 when the first dates for this species were 8.iv.1981, 21.iv.1982, 15.iv.1983, 9.iv.1984 and 3.iv.1985. Is this an indication of "global warming"? Perhaps not in itself because this winter seems to have been exceptionally mild but it does seem to be a further indication of a shift in emergence patterns with the increasingly warm springs experienced in recent years.—R.K.A. MORRIS, c/o, 241 Commonsides East, Mitcham, Surrey.

The incidence of two species of *Corticeus* Pill. & Mitt. (Col.: Tenebrionidae): a comment

In Brendell, 1975, Coleoptera Tenebrionidae (*Handbk. Ident. Br. Insects* 5(10): 19) it is stated that *Corticeus* (formerly *Hypophloeus*) *fraxini* (Kug.) occurs "very rarely" in the burrows of *Orthotomicus suturalis* (Gyll.) and *O. laricis* (F.) and is rare, occurring "nearly always" in those of *Ips sexdentatus* (Born.). Donisthorpe, on the other hand (1939, *A preliminary list of the Coleoptera of Windsor Forest*: 96), records *C. fraxini* "in the greatest profusion, with its larvae, under the bark of a number of large felled Scots pines infested by *Tomicus laricus*, *T. suturellus* [i.e. *suturalis*], etc." When that was written *Ips sexdentatus* was unknown in the Windsor Forest area, being only much later found there (and that rarely). This record relates to the Swinley Forest/Ascot Heath area, where I took *C. fraxini* somewhat freely with the two *Orthotomicus* spp. in 1936. On a visit to Chobham Common, Surrey, with my friend Prof J.A. Owen (2.x.1996), we found it sparingly under bark of a pine branch forming part of a stile, which had been formerly attacked by scolytids (species indeterminable) but certainly not *I. sexdentatus*).

The 1975 estimate above thus needs revising: it contrasts oddly with that given for *C. unicolor* Pill. Mitt. (l.c.): "locally quite common". This may have been true in the past, but few present-day collectors appear to have met with the species – or such at least is my impression. In Hyman & Parsons (1992, *A review of the status of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain*, 1: 413), it is accorded "rare" status with only four county-divisions listed for the post-1970 period.—A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.